

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/121 W

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R 091100Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161

INFO DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC CP HM SMITH HI

COMUSJAPAN FUCH U JAPAN

CG USARJ CAMP ZAMA JAPAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, JA, MARR

SUBJ: FUEL PROCUREMENT IN JAPAN FOR US FORCES

REF: A. STATE 249854 DTG 221902Z DEC 73

B. TOKYO 16554 DTG 260417Z DEC 73

SUMMARY: FONOFF HAS ASKED WHETHER WE HAVE STOPPED PROCURING OIL LOCALLY FOR US FORCES. JCP IS CONTINUING TO PLAY UP ALLEGED US FORCES CONSUMPTION OF JAPANESE OIL, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE ISSUE IN DIET LATE JANUARY. ACTION REQUESTED: RESPONSE TO QUERY. END SUMMARY.

1. AS AUTHORIZED AND REPORTED REFTELS, FONMIN OHIRA ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY IN LATE DECEMBER THAT USG HAD AGREED TO STOP PROCUREMENT OF OIL FOR US FORCES FROM JAPANESE SOURCES AS SOON AS ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. HE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD OCCUR IN MID JANUARY.

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2. FONOFF (TERADA) ASKED EMBASSY JANUARY 9 WHETHER WE HAVE

COMPLETED SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AND STOPPED LOCAL PROCUREMENT, AND IF SO, WHEN? IF ANSWER IS POSITIVE, GOJ WOULD LIKE TO MAKE INFORMATION PUBLIC TO REBUT JCP ALLEGATIONS THAT US FORCES ARE CONTINUING TO DRAW HEAVILY ON SLIM SUPPLY IN JAPANESE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR ITS OPERATIONAL NEEDS. TERADA CITED HEADLINE STORY TO THAT EFFECT IN JANUARY 4 "AKAHATA", AND SAID THAT JCP CAN BE COUNTED ON TO MAKE THIS A MAJOR ISSUE WHEN LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETS IN LATE JAN.

3. "AKAHATA" STORY IN QUESTION CONTAINS DETAILED INFORMATION ON US FORCES OIL STORAGE CAPACITY IN DEPOTS IN JAPAN, CONSUMPTION RATES, AND JAPANESE SOURCES OF SUPPLY. STORY DOES NOT STATE EXPLICITLY BUT DOES INDICATE THAT US FORCES WERE DRAWING ON LOCAL SOURCES AS OF DATE OF PUBLICATION. MOREOVER, STORY TAKES GOJ TO TASK FOR NOT INITIATING SUSPENSION OF SUPPLY TO US FORCES BY CONTROLLING JAPANESE SUPPLIERS UNDER TWO RECENTLY ENACTED OIL LEGISLATION.

4. COMMENT: JCP STORIES LIKE THIS ARE OFTEN ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOS OF JAPANESE NATIONAL RAILWAY TANKERS AND JAPANESE TRUCKS HAULING POL INTO OUR BASES. THIS POINTS UP A MAJOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM WE FACE IN REFUTING JCP ALLEGATIONS, AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED TO FONOFF, I.E. OIL DISTRIBUTION TO OUR FACILITIES WITHIN JAPAN (ASIDE, OF COURSE, FROM PIPELINES) IS ACCOMPLISHED MAINLY BY JAPANESE CONTRACTORS, SUCH AS JNR AND TRUCKING FIRMS, USING OWN EQUIPMENT. THUS, EVEN THOUGH ALL OF OUR OIL SUPPLY MAY COME FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE JAPAN, THIS FACT WILL NOT BE READILY APPARENT OR DEMONSTRABLE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED RESPONSE TO QUERY IN PARA TWO WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
SHOESMITH

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